

Hawthorn Happenings

Parent Newsletter



Sandy Hemaya, Principal

Sasha Erwin, Assist. Principal

Dear Parents,

As we are entering into November, there are many things I am thankful for and one of those things is to be have the honor to be Principal at Hawthorn Elementary. We have great students, parents and teachers at this school and I am blessed to be a part of this family.

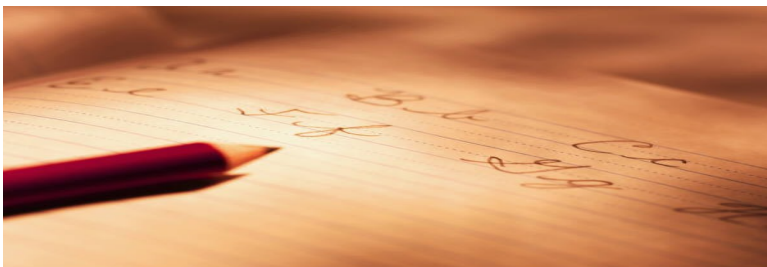
One of our academic focuses this year is implementing Writer's Workshop for our model of instruction to teach writing. Each class, kindergarten through fifth grade, spends 40 to 45 minutes each day on writing. The Writer's Workshop model includes eight "parts". There is some behind the scenes work the teachers do to get ready for implementing Writer's Workshop. First, the teachers develop their Units of Study. This is a year long plan to teach various types of writing including, narrative, informative and argumentative. The next step is for teachers to spend time establishing routines for their Writer's Workshop lessons and have the materials students will need available. These materials include writing journals, pens and pencils, writing resources, trade books, etc. Now it is time for the actual writing lesson. The first step to a Writer's Workshop lesson is to do a mini-lesson. This is when the teacher takes seven to ten minutes to teach a needed skill. Mini-lessons are a time for teachers to teach "how" to write, not "what" to write and they may incorporate literature to show examples of the skill they are teaching. The next step of the lesson is to allow students to have time to compose their writing. The most important aspect of composing is that the students get to choose what they write about. For example, if the unit of study is writing a personal narrative, then the students will be able to choose what they want to write about that has occurred in their lives. Gone are the days we have everyone writing about "What I did on my summer vacation." Writer's Workshop is more personal! While students are composing, the teacher is conferring with individual students. This is a time for collaboration between the teacher and student that focuses on teaching points, such as writing an enticing introduction, rather than "trouble shooting" mechanical and spelling errors. The final part of the Writer's Workshop lesson is to have reflection. During reflection time, the teacher has students share their writing or a portion of their writing. The teacher purposefully selects the students to share so they can use this time as a teaching tool for all the students. After students have completed a piece of writing, they can publish it. Publishing can be done in a variety of ways, including using technology as a publishing tool. Students writing that is published is also assessed. At Hawthorn, teachers assess writing pieces for the 6+1 Writing Traits which include: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Students' published pieces are then kept in a writing portfolio that will be sent home at the end of the school year.

We are hoping by implementing Writer's Workshop as our model of instruction, we will not only improve our students' writing skills, but will improve our overall student achievement scores as well. At Hawthorn we are dedicated to helping each student be successful. We are thankful to all the support we receive from our parents as well!

Have a wonderful November and please take some time to think about what you are most thankful for!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hemaya



Safety Drills

Each school in the Park Hill School District is required to perform safety drills throughout the school year. We are required to perform the following drills to help prepare our students in the event of an emergency.

Fire drill—1 time each month

Severe weather drill—1 time each semester

Earthquake drill—1 time each year

Security Hold and Lock Down—1 time each semester

We have been busy practicing these drills this fall at Hawthorn. In October, we had our monthly fire drill as well as our two security drills. On October 5th, we had our monthly fire drill and the students did an excellent job of exiting the building quietly and quickly. On October 16th, we practiced our Security drills. The Security Hold drill consists of teachers locking their doors and continuing to teach. We would use this procedure if there was a stray animal or something in our building and we wanted to make sure students stayed in their classrooms. A Security Alert or Lock Down drill is when the teachers lock their doors, shut their blinds and the students hide away from the window. This procedure would be used if there was an unwanted visitor in our building who would pose a threat to staff members or students. The goal of this procedure is to make our building seem empty.

It was amazing how quiet our building of 460 students was as Ms. Erwin and I walked around.

We will be having our Earthquake drill in March, and during this drill the students get under a table or desk in an effort to protect themselves if something should fall if there ever was an earthquake.

I am very proud of our students and staff for the seriousness they put forth with our safety drills. We hope we never have to use them, but in the event we do, I am confident we will be prepared at Hawthorn.

We also have interior and exterior cameras here at Hawthorn to help us monitor both the inside and outside of the building.

These cameras are running all day, everyday which is very helpful with incidences that may occur outside the normal school hours.

4th Annual Hawthorn Clothing/Food Drive

November is the month that we often think about all the things we are thankful for and here at Hawthorn we are thankful to have such supportive and giving students and parents. We are asking for your help during the month of November, as we collect gently used clothes and non-perishable food items for our 4th Annual Hawthorn Clothing/Food Pantry. For the past four years, Hawthorn has been providing a clothing/food pantry for our families in need of assistance as a way to give back to our community. If you are able to help support this tradition, please bring the items you would like to donate to the office. We will be collecting through Friday, November 15th.

Our Clothing/Food pantry will be open on Tuesday, November 20th, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and will be located in our cafeteria. Ms. Pleiss our School Social Worker will be sending invitations to our families to provide more details on this event.

We want to thank our PTA members in advance because they donate their time to fold and organize the items for our pantry. Any items remaining after our event will be donated to a local charity.



Hawthorn Spelling Bee

The fourth and fifth grade students at Hawthorn Elementary are being offered an opportunity to participate in an after-school spelling bee on **Tuesday, January 8**, starting at 4:00 p.m.

During the first week in December, Ms. Erwin is going to visit with all fourth and fifth grade classes to share information about the spelling bee process. **Students who want to participate will receive a permission form that needs to be turned in to the office by Friday, December 21st.** Students will be given additional information about the bee and word lists to study when the permission form is returned.

The top four finalists (with two alternates) will advance to the Park Hill School District Spelling Bee that is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Fourth graders are able to participate in both the building level and district level bees, but are not able to advance to the county bee according to the Scripps Spelling Bee rules.

If you have further questions, please contact the building Spelling Bee Coordinator,

Sasha Erwin at ErwinS@parkhill.k12.mo.us or 359-5603.

Holiday Celebrations at Hawthorn

Holiday celebrations are conducted a little different at Hawthorn and with many new families who have joined our Husky family, I wanted to share our practices for each of our holiday celebrations.

Fall Parties

Our Fall Parties will be on Wednesday, October 31st, with our costume parade beginning at 2:00 pm. Any student who chooses to dress up will parade around the school, maybe outside if the weather cooperates, and then return to their classroom for snacks and drinks. Many grade level teachers have taken on the practice of assigning parents what to bring. This distributes the work load evenly and takes the responsibility off just one or two parents. Also, in a time when childhood obesity is at it's highest, we do ask parents to consider providing healthy choices for our students. Park Hill will continue to have the practice of only store bought treats for our student celebrations. If you have questions regarding this practice, please give the office a call at 359-4390.

Winter Celebrations

Our Winter Celebration will be held on December 21st, from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Our Encore Teachers will host the 4th Annual Reindeer Games which includes 1/2 of our students as participants. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly to either watch or join in the fun. Students will return to class when the games have ended and our dismissal will be at 11:45 am. There will be no treats offered on this day to our students and parents are welcome to check out their child when they leave after the Reindeer Games.

Valentine's Celebrations

Our Valentine's Celebrations will be held on Thursday, February 14th from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. We will begin our celebration with a school wide activity assembly in the gym with lots of physical activities the other 1/2 of our students will be involved in. When the assembly is over, students will return to their classrooms and will enjoy a snack and drink supplied by Hawthorn and our wonderful PTA. Students will also have time to distribute Valentine's to their classmates at this time.

Hawthorn's McTeacher Night

Please mark your calendars for Hawthorn's 3rd Annual Fall McTeacher Night on Monday, November 5, 2012. This is a change of date, due to construction at the Barry Road McDonald's. This event has proven to be a great night for Hawthorn families to get together outside of school, save Mom or Dad from having to cook, let's students see our teachers in a different role, and helps to raise money for our school. Teachers will sign up for an hour to work from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and all you have to do is come eat! The past has left McDonald's with "standing room only" and we hope that is the case for this year as well. If you are busy, which we know you are, and can only swing through the drive-through, that is great and tell your family and friends about this as well. McDonald's will donate 20% of the money made from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, not just from HW families, but from everyone who purchases food and drinks during this time.

This money is used for teachers to purchase educational resources, such as Mountain Math, Mountain Language, Smart Board Applications etc. All of this money goes back to the classrooms for your students to benefit from!

We hope to see you at McDonald's anytime between 4:00 pm and 8:00pm.

Recycling at Hawthorn

Recycling is an effort that is good for our environment and also can raise money for our school. At Hawthorn, we are asking for you to join in our recycling efforts by bringing your recyclable items to Hawthorn when possible. In the corner of the north parking lot are two bins for paper only and next to the school by the large trash dumpster is a "co-mingled" bin which is for cardboard, aluminum, and plastic items. This bin says "cardboard only" on it, but you are able to put the other items in there as well. I am working on getting a new bin that will be placed by the others in the parking lot, but have not completed this task as of yet. Thanks in advance for helping us to not only help our environment, but to help raise money for our school as well. If you have any questions regarding our recycling efforts, please give me a call at 359-4390.



Stay connected to Hawthorn!

For current updates, resources, calendar, staff directory, teacher websites, photos & more:

www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/HawthornElementary

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HawthornElementary

Twitter: [@HawthornElemen](#)

Hawthorn Heroes

Each month at Hawthorn we highlight a life skill we want our students to learn and apply while here at Hawthorn and at home. At the end of the month, we then have a small celebration for those who were chosen the Hawthorn Heroes for their class. During this celebration, the students are given a window decal and have a chance to sign a poster promoting the life skill. This poster will be hung up in the front hall at Hawthorn for the year for all to see.

Below are the life skills we will be working on each month.

September—Respect	October—Responsibility	November—Positive Role Model
December—Compassion	January—Kindness	February—Honesty
March—Perseverance	April—Effort	

Below are the students at Hawthorn who were chosen as October Hawthorn Heroes for showing Responsibility during the month of October.

Alayna Grego	Tristan Thomas	AJ Rodriguez	Sophie Saldivar	Lawson Mardis
Andrew Olson	Addison Scharnhorst	Lauren Bishard	Kaceson Tisdell	Addie Thomas
Adira Mongar	Ryan Deakins	Connor Detty	Jared Blahnik	Brynn Devers
Alex Dvorak	Avery McFeeters	Gretchen Roth	Cooper Whorton	Drake Parsons
FeFe Tulay	Katy Haug	Govi Eastwood	Chloe Aquino	Thanh Luu
Mackenzie Resch	Sophie Hayes	Alx Wessol	Nicole Deakins	Trinity Marshall
Ava Shaw	Lily Robertson	Savannah Diebold	Thomas Miller	Sarah Posey
Vincent Cadiz	Leyton Clore	Faith Hecht	Braydan Resch	Michael Vance
Tyler Heinerikson	Ryann Buster	Olivia Fordham	Luke Martens	Carter Scott
Emily Williamson	Natalie Johnson	Anders Runyan	Samantha Bertoncino	Aaron Cummings
Estrella Van Kirk	Sarah Turpen	Josh Borst		

Math-A-Thon a Huge Success

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our families and friends that donated to our school fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$8,500.00 for our school. Our Leadership Council on Thursday and have already begun talking about how to spend this money. Some ideas we came up with were to purchase iPads or iPad Minis for our students to use, digital cameras, headphones, as well as various computer programs to enhance instruction.

Bike Rack at Hawthorn

It seems we are having more and more students riding their bikes to school when the weather cooperates. Soon we will have a place for the students to park these bikes. A big thank you to the Behrends Family for donating a bike rack to our school. The cement foundation has been poured and as soon as the bike rack arrives, we will get it put in place. The bike rack will be located by the gated entrance to our playground to accommodate students riding their bikes to school as well as those who ride their bikes up to play on the playground in the evenings or on the weekends.

What a great donation to our school!

